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DE RUEHOT #0234 0382308

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4949

INFO RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 2155

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 0592

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0772

RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000234

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MADRID PASS POL-MIL AND DATT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2027

TAGS: PREL MARR MOPS NATO PINS AF CA

SUBJECT: CANADA, U.S. TO CARRY SAME MESSAGE TO NATO

INFORMAL DEFENSE MINISTERIAL IN SEVILLE

REF: STATE 13880

Classified By: PolMinCouns Brian Flora. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C/NF) Following up on Assistant Secretary Boucher's February 5 meetings with his Regional Command - South (RC-S) counterparts in Ottawa (septel), we presented reftel points on February 7 to Department of National Defense (DND) NATO Policy Deputy Director Michael Kaduck and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) NATO Deputy Director Isabelle Poupart.

¶2. (C/NF) Kaduck said he had drafted many of Defense Minister O'Connor's Seville briefers, and observed that "our two ministers will be saying the same thing to the Europeans." He added that among Canada's biggest immediate concerns was the availability of rotary wing aviation in RC-S after July, as Canada's small fleet of ageing helicopters was incapable of operating in Afghanistan. Kaduck noted that the delivery of Canada's just funded replacement fleet of helicopters was a couple years away. He then remarked that Canada was unimpressed that NATO members together offered some 200 military helicopters when the tsunami struck Indonesia in 2005 but were somehow unable to make a handful of rotary-wing assets available to NATO partners serving in RC-S Afghanistan.

¶3. (C/NF) In a separate meeting at DFAIT, Poupart commented that the GOC was hoping for, but not counting on, success in Seville. She noted that the U.S., the UK, and Canada still had work to do to convince the Europeans that they must show alliance solidarity by supporting and participating in necessary kinetic operations in RC-S. The reluctance among capable European partners to share the burden in the South, she said, would make it harder for the minority Harper Government to justify its engagement in Afghanistan.

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